

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
AID-05 EB-08 IGA-02 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 R

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AF/P:BRUSSELL
NEA/ARP:BBODINE
-----039784 032355Z /70

O R 032306Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, ET, SO, MU, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON ARMS FOR SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT FEBRUARY 2 PRESS
BRIEFING, DEPT SPOKESMAN WAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING:

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT
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SPECIFICALLY, CONSIDERING WHETHER TO RELEASE THE SHIPMENT
OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA NOW THAT THE ETHIOPIANS
REPORTEDLY HAVE PAID THE SHIPPING BILL?

A. WE HAVE REPEATED OFTEN THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF
SUPPLYING ARMS TO EITHER SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA WHILE THE

OGADEN CONFLICT LASTS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE APPARENTLY SOME SPARE PARTS AND OTHER MATERIEL IN THE HANDS OF ETHIOPIA'S U.S. FREIGHT FORWARDER TO WHICH TITLE HAD PASSED TO ETHIOPIA BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP LAST SPRING. THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THIS MATERIEL ARE STILL VALID.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE TO HAVE ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA UNDER CONTINUING HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS, OR HAVE YOU SEEN THE REPORTS THAT AMERICAN-MADE M-48 TANKS HAVE REACHED SOMALIA VIA OMAN OR SAUDI ARABIA?

A. WE CANNOT CONFIRM SUCH REPORTS. THE U.S. HAS NOT SOLD M-48 TANKS TO OMAN OR TO SAUDI ARABIA.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES INVESTIGATING TO DETERMINE WHETHER AMERICAN EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SENT TO SOMALIA CIRCUITOUSLY WITHOUT OFFICIAL U.S. PERMISSION?

A. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY U.S.-ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SOMALIA IN CONTRAVENTION OF OUR FREQUENTLY REITERATED POLICY NOT TO APPROVE SUCH TRANSFERS BY THIRD COUNTRIES. RECIPIENTS OF U.S.-ORIGIN MATERIEL ARE WELL AWARE THAT VIOLATION
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OF U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON U.S. WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE MATERIEL IN THE FUTURE. THE U.S. WILL BE MAKING INQUIRIES OF THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT REPORTED CAPTURED. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 feb 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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